

To: SIJNY Members
From: Kazim Dharsi, New Project Architect
Date: August 31, 2007

Salaams,

At the Meeting of May 5 2007, where drawings and a building model of SIJNY's New Religious Center on Long Island were presented by Architect Kazim Dharsi, a number of comments, suggestions and improvements to the design proposal were offered by the membership.

The attached .PDF drawings incorporate the changes that were requested by the membership of the Jamaat.

Offered on the following page, is a comparison of the approved drawings by the membership (available on SIJNY.org and referred to as "OLD" and the attached drawings, which is referred to as "NEW").

Architect Comments on New & Old Plans:

Both the Old and New Plans have advantages and disadvantages. The New Plan satisfies the requirement for large open spaces for both sexes, to accommodate the Jamaat's membership for the present and the foreseeable future.

The New Plan is more efficient in use of space, and will require NO variance application with the Town except for the Minaret and Dome.

The Old Plan does require a variance application for a greater footprint.

The New Plan incorporates two Zari/Taboot areas. Both Men and Women will need to prepare Taboots for Muharram processional. Men and Women will not have to wait for each other to enter the Zari Room.

The main disadvantage of the new plan is the lack of a separate Dining/Multipurpose area. In Allentown's Mosque, the Dining/Multipurpose area is used even when Majlis is going on and everybody is expected to be in the Main Hall. It is generally used by parents with young children who retreat to this room to avoid disturbing the proceedings in the Main Hall.

In the Old Plan, there was a connection for Jamaat Namaaz. In the New Plan, the connection is awaiting resolution.

OLD

Footprint is 770 square feet **over** what is allowable by the Township

No exterior plaza area.

Basement Floor Plan accommodates Madressa.

First Floor has Kitchen/Ghusl/Toilets/Storage and two separate Eating and Multipurpose Areas for Men and Women. Each multipurpose area is 1,589 Square feet

Second Floor has Wudhu/Toilets and Namaaz/Majlis Area for Men and Women. Each Namaaz/Majlis area is 1,446 Square Feet. A common Zari Room is on this Floor.

NEW

Footprint is 3 square feet **under** what is allowable by the Township.

An exterior plaza area for small group interaction (Baraza).

Basement Floor Plan accommodates Madressa as well as 1,000 Square feet of prayer area for Madressa students.

First Floor has Kitchen accessible by both Men and Women, Men's Toilets, Mens' Zari Room, Men's Congregation area of 3,846 Square Feet, Mens' lobby for hanging coats and shoe storage. Additionally, women can access the First Floor for Thursday night Majlis or other events with light attendance.

Second Floor incorporates a Namaaz/Majlis area of 3,663 Square Feet, Wudhu/ Womens' Toilets, Womens, Lobby for hanging coats and shoe storage. Ghusl area is on the second floor and is designed to be primarily accessible to men, but women can also access this area for performing Ghusl.